June 29, 2007: "There can be no question of India's firm and abiding commitment to non-alignment. The Non Aligned Movement played a significant role in ending apartheid and colonialism. Today, its relevance continues in promoting South-South cooperation and the democratization of the international system. India remains committed to its ideals."

(b) to (d) India had hosted the 7th NAM Summit in New Delhi in March, 1983. Egypt's offer to host the next 15th NAM Summit in 2009 was accepted by the previous NAM Summit in Cuba.

Problems of Tamils in Sri Lanka

1282. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan Tamils live in great fear, panic and desperation as LTTE on the one side and Sri Lankan Army on the other vow to continue the battle resulting killing of thousands of innocent Tamils indiscriminately and the process of peace is farfetched;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to save innocent Tamils being killed; and

(c) whether the issue would be taken to Geneva Meet of UN Human Rights Council particularly about the Refugees Camps in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have been hostilities between the Sri Lankan armed forces and the LTTE since the beginning of 2006, which have resulted in serious loss of lives including that of Tamil civilians.

(b) and (c) While conveying our concern on civilian casualties, we have emphasised to the Government of Sri Lanka that the only solution to the ethnic problem is a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all communities in Sri Lanka. We have also emphasised to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to make all possible efforts to revive the peace process. With regard to the issue of Sri Lankan Tamil refuges in India, we have stressed to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to create conditions for the safe and voluntary return of refugees to their homes.

Cut in US aid to India

1283. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bush administration has proposed an unwarranted 35 percent cut in aid to India in its 2008 Budget;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;